

Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

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In the Matter of

Rural Health Care Support Mechanism

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WC Docket No. 02-60

ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION**Adopted: January 14, 2004****Released: January 16, 2004**

By the Commission:

1. In this order, we reconsider, on our own motion,¹ the requirement in section 54.619(a)(4) of the Commission's rules that the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) submit to the Commission an annual report on the rural health care program on the first business day in May of each year.² The Commission recently made a number of changes to the rural health care program to improve the program's effectiveness. The Commission, among other things, expanded the entities eligible to participate in the program, added Internet access to the list of services eligible for discounts, and modified the way in which telecommunications service discounts are calculated.³ Although the Commission made other changes to section 54.619 in this recent order, it made no changes to section 54.619(a)(4). Section 54.702(g) already requires USAC to submit an annual report detailing its activities and information for each of the support mechanisms, including the rural health care program, to the Commission by March 31 of each year.⁴ We do not believe it necessary for USAC to submit two separate annual reports to the Commission on the rural health care program. Therefore, we delete section 54.619(a)(4) of our rules.⁵

2. Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED, pursuant to sections 1-4, 201-202, 254, and 405 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, 47 U.S.C. §§ 151-154, 201-202, 254, and 405 and section 1.108 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.108, this ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION is ADOPTED.

¹ See 47 C.F.R. § 1.108.

² See 47 C.F.R. § 54.619(a)(4).

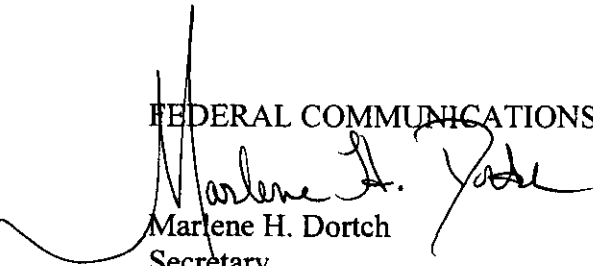
³ *Rural Health Care Support Mechanism*, WC Docket No. 02-60, Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 18 FCC Rcd 24546 (2003). This order was published in the Federal Register on December 24, 2003. See 68 Fed.Reg. 74492 (2003).

⁴ 47 C.F.R. § 54.702(g).

⁵ See Appendix A.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Part 54 of the Commission's rules, 47 C.F.R. § 54.619(a)(4), IS AMENDED, as set forth in Appendix A attached hereto, effective thirty (30) days after the publication of this ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION in the Federal Register.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION



Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary

APPENDIX A

Final Rules

For the reasons discussed above, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 C.F.R. Part 54 as follows:

PART 54 - UNIVERSAL SERVICE

- 1 Amend § 54.619 by deleting paragraph (a)(4).